4 7 1

My dear Maria Sorrento 8 miles from Naples August

I am here staying with a very kind Gentleman and his family who has invited me and taken me under his protection to which I bring round my health. It is one of the loveliest places under the heaven – wood and abrupt rocks romantic scenery situated on the side of the Sea which it meets by many fine broad bays – it comes nearer to the beauty of my Cuyp and Claude than any thing I have seen – The kind family too are like the scene – they live in the most compleat Paradise – from the Terrace are the Naples with Vesuvius and the Sea for 40 miles – and a sky ever without a cloud – This is a pleasant and fortunate thing for me – I am passing a quiet time – with a room to myself and a kind friend to watch my health – I am now almost recovered – but the heat is enough to roast St Laurence without a fire – It knocks me down if I stay in Naples – Here I could only stay indoors – & what are all Rose beautiful scenes without the cool to enjoy them England is worth all the rest of Europe – in the little it has of all things – I have been making 6 Water colour drawings – during my stay indoors – The subjects are these – Falstaff passing by a Prison gate – he pulls his hat over his face and the Page lifts the Shield to hide his belly – the Jailor is looking over the door of the Prison to see who is passing – while Falstaff is laughing at you – Nat he shakes him – No 2 – is a drowned boy brought to his father & Mother on a Sea coast – 3rd a Mother who has just taken her infant from the cradle when a Ball of Lightning enters the Room and dashes the Cradle to pieces – The idea of this is from a fact in some Greek Shepherds saving a Lamb while in being carried off by an Eagle – this I think to paint again in the following – 4 Dante meeting Cornelia – 5th Rosalind & Celia finding Orlando asleep in the Wood – this I mean to paint – [illegible] of the 2 Ladies I travelled with to Naples – There is very little light and I have gained so much that Nat Jean does not find [illegible] about my Sketches [illegible] I hate my friends to take [illegible] great pleasure [illegible]

I am [illegible] praying my dearest to this young Lady. My wedding is on
good earnest received the "Lady of the Lake" for me to learn to present with
me abroad. my dearest gaiety is at an end. heart & Mind brought me
wonderfully. I have been composing another duett which we sing
together. the Subject is from Romeo & Juliet. "Night thou be gone it is
not yet near day". the finishing with "more light and light it grows more
dark and dark our woes". now I have a romantic plan of being married
- it would be a great thing for me to be allied to a noble family who
would care for me & help me through the World. this Lady is the niece
of Lord Elgin who brought over the Marbles from Greece. I know
my dear Maria you will smile at all this. but I have a reason
and it shall not want my care and can on - though it may fall
to nothing - it is talked of in Naples as a certain thing now - they
are all coming over to Sorrento to live. to my dear Maria has
ceased to write to me. and has in fact forgotten me - and even
used to love me only half as much did. and all this is for me
dearer than a Brother. O! my dear Maria my heart aches to
think of you - to think what a chance your future happiness
involved on - and I will pray to God for that happiness to be your
fate whatever it will - for my own happiness so wrapped up in
your fate & as it goes to the end of my career and life - but dare not
offer you any advice when you are to make more capable of judging
for - the thoughts of such a sister does pride me now I am away
therefore. I may just a little tax you - that you are paid upon
the enforcement you have before you to marry the thought of never
wife unless you love to chose a Husband capable of satisfying you
and making you happy - the next best way by the feelings you may
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]